Oleoresin Capsicum (OC)

308.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the required training for corrections deputies to be authorized to carry and use chemical agents and identifies the appropriate medical treatment of individuals exposed to a chemical agent.

308.2 POLICY

Authorized members of the Thurston County Sheriff's Office Corrections Bureau may use Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) to protect themselves or others from imminent danger, to prevent escapes, to prevent willful destruction of Corrections Bureau property, and to maintain order and discipline within Correction Bureau facilities. Deputies will use only the amount of force necessary to control an inmate or a situation. OC will never be used as a form of punishment, to harass, or retaliate against any person. Also see See Sheriff's Office Policy--Corrections Manual, Policy CM 512

308.3 USE WITHIN THE FACILITY

The On Duty Supervisor (ODS) or Housing Sergeant will be notified as soon as practical following the use of OC.

The following factors will determine the use of OC:

(a) Deputy presence and/or commands have not been successful in resolving a volatile or violent situation.

(b) The situation at hand poses a high probability of bodily injury to members, inmates, or the community.

(c) The situation jeopardizes or is a breach of facility security.

(d) Prevention of an inmate escape.

(e) Extraction or removal of an inmate from a cell, unit, dormitory, shower, etc. (refer to Cell Entry Training).

(f) Violent resistance by inmate(s).

(g) Prevention of a riot or major disturbance by inmates.

- Members deploying OC will use maximum discretion when determining the use of OC for individuals armed with any form of weapon, whether blunt, sharpened, or edged.
- The ODS or Housing Sergeant may determine that outside assistance such as non-lethal/patrol assistance, K-9, or SWAT is necessary and appropriate to neutralize the situation.

308.4 COMMISSIONED MEMBERS

Commissioned members will be authorized to carry OC on their duty belt while on duty and in uniform in the following circumstances:

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(a) Outside the facility, When entering the facility for routine business, OC will be stored in a secure gun locker or vehicle

(b) During critical incidents requiring a Cell Entry Team

(c) Unless they have written permission from the Chief Deputy of Corrections, or designee

Every member carrying an OC canister will check it for damage upon issuance. The OC canisters will be replaced after any use. The Deputy will notify the Administrative Lieutenant, or designee, for replacement. All deployed canisters will be disposed of outside of the secure facility and not placed in the trash compactor.

OC canisters have a five (5) year shelf life and need to be replaced after five (5) years even if they have never been used. It will be the responsibility of the Administrative Lieutenant or designee to monitor the shelf life of canisters and when they are due for replacement.

308.5 DOCUMENTATION

The Deputy who discharges the Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) in an incident, as well as the other Deputies who were present at the scene of the discharge, will complete an incident report as soon as possible after the incident, and prior to the end of their shift. Included in this report will be:

(a) The inmate's activities leading up to the discharge.

(b) The attempts to gain the compliance of the inmate before OC deployment.

(c) The time the canister was discharged.

(d) The approximate amount of OC that was deployed.

(e) The behavior of the inmate after OC was deployed.

(f) The medical treatment or response given to the inmate.

- The correct boxes will be marked in the "Incident Flags" section of the disciplinary report screen and a "Use of Force" form will be completed by the Deputy who deployed the OC.

The ODS or Housing Sergeant will review all reports submitted by those involved in the incident and gather them together in a packet that will include the "Use of Force" form and any other pertinent information.

308.6 POST EXPOSURE

After applying OC to an inmate and if compliance is gained, the inmate will be restrained in handcuffs as soon as a practical. A Deputy will attempt to calm the inmate. The inmate will be removed from the affected area to start the decontamination process.

(a) When it is safe and appropriate to do so, the On Duty Supervisor (ODS), or the Housing Sergeant will ensure the following:

- The inmate has access to water to flush their face and eyes.

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- The inmate may be offered a shower if practical and a change of clothing, if necessary.
- Clean-up operations begin as soon as possible, according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

- Only Medical staff will remove contact lenses from an inmate who has been exposed.
- Assists individuals affected by secondary exposure on decontamination techniques or offer medical assistance as needed.

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